



Fish and Wildlife Conservation

How Fish and Wildlife Dollars Are Used in Your Backyard

Grant County



County characteristics

- 1,183 sq. mi. Population 49,597 (2000 census)
- Entirely in the unglaciated “driftless” area of Wisconsin, with north/northeast half of county farmland/woodland, the south/southwest half former prairie, now farmland
- waters: 49 miles of Mississippi and 42 miles of Wisconsin River frontage, over 100 miles of trout water, and over 250 miles of smallmouth bass streams. Many oxbows and sloughs provide surface water as natural, small “lakes”
- 11,683 licensed anglers and 9,669 hunters and trappers reside in Grant County



Early season trout fishing on the Blue River

State Land Open to Hunting and Fishing

- 13,612 acres of state land within the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway
 - 3,873 acres of State Parks/Natural Areas
 - 537 acres of Fish Management Lands
- Our Wildlife and Fisheries lands are operated with license dollars. You can locate DNR properties for all your outdoor activities at:
- www.dnr.wi.gov/org/land/facilities/dnr_lands_mapping.html

Fish and Wildlife Staff serving you

- 1 Wildlife biologist; 1 Wildlife technician 1 Fish biologist; 2 Conservation Wardens; 1 Lands & Facilities technician, Office at Wilson State

Nursery, Boscobel * Staff members also serve portions of Richland and Lafayette Counties

Activities Funded by Your Hunting and Fishing Dollars

- Establish and maintain grassland and wetland habitat for ducks, pheasants, and other wildlife species on public as well as private lands. Preserve and restore original prairie remnants on public and private lands
- Established an aggressive chronic wasting disease management program in southwest Wisconsin (Grant County : nearly 1,400 deer tested since the discovery of CWD in 2002)
- Conservation Wardens arrested a non-resident who was running illegal commercial fishing setlines in the Wisconsin portion of the Mississippi River for several years. Though diligence and patience this subject was apprehended setting lines after dark and removing them before light the next morning in backwater sloughs, an activity he had carefully practiced for 40 years when he knew what the wardens' schedule was!
- Conservation Wardens apprehended a group of five subjects who had shot 34 deer, 22 raccoons and a red-tailed hawk and left them to rot. Most of the deer and raccoon were shot at night with

the aid of an artificial light. The subjects paid more than \$12,000 in fines and lost their hunting privileges, weapons and vehicle.

- Manage DNR land by posting public hunting and access sites, as well as building and maintaining parking areas and initiating habitat development and improvement projects.
- Establish and maintain warm and coldwater habitat improvement projects on area smallmouth bass and trout streams.
- Monitor sport-fisheries county-wide for stocking evaluations, population status, harvest recommendations, and habitat improvement.
- Conservation Wardens arrested 3 subjects who were riding dirt bikes in the Blue River Sand Barrens Natural Area, a unique desert-like wildlife area purchased with Fish & Wildlife dollars, and home to several endangered species, including Ornate Box and Blandings turtles. The subjects were ordered to pay over \$5,000.00 in restoration costs for damage done to this fragile ecosystem.
- Monitor local wildlife populations of ducks, geese, turkeys, pheasants, grouse, woodcock, deer, frogs, grassland birds, and eagles.
- Respond to hundreds of wildlife damage and nuisance complaints and monitor wildlife diseases including CWD and West Nile Virus. Issue 30 permits or more/year to control deer damage.
- Provide educational programs for schools, conservation organizations and civic groups.

Grant County Conservation Snapshots

- 18 water access sites available
- Wardens taught at 14 Hunter Education courses involving 480 students through cooperative effort with volunteer instructors
- Wardens responded to 26 Hotline calls
- 21 DNR license agents supported
- 17 Deer and Turkey registration stations set up to provide for 4 distinct seasonal registration needs
- Process over 10,000 Grant County registration records annually on deer, turkey, and furbearers



Conservation Wardens provide educational programs to Grant County schoolchildren

Fish & Wildlife Stocking Summary

- Stock (pre-2003) an average 500 pheasants annually.
- 62,000 fish stocked into 24 streams - species include brook trout, brown trout, rainbow trout, and walleye.